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Balraj Dhillon, and Deepak Mehta*

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

WILLIAM J. RICHARDS,

Plaintiff,

v.

**CHARLES PICKETT, JOHN
PARSONS, DONALD B.
THORNTON, BONIFACIO C.
ESPERANZA, JOHN CULTON,
DAVID DUNN, NICHOLAS
AGUILERA, JOSEPH BICK, RAY
ANDREASEN, NABIL
ATHANASSIOUS, ELI RICHMAN,
BALRAJ DHILLON, DEEPAK
MEHTA, JOHN PRICE, CHAU,
NOEL HUI, EDMUND KO,
ARROWHEAD REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER, COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO, and DOES 1
through 10, inclusive,**

Defendants.

5:18-cv-00912-JGB-SHK

**DEFENDANTS JOHN PARSONS,
DONALD B. THORNTON,
BONIFACIO C. ESPERANZA,
JOHN CULTON, DAVID DUNN,
NICHOLAS AGUILERA, JOSEPH
BICK, RAY ANDREASEN, NABIL
ATHANASSIOUS, ELI RICHMAN,
BALRAJ DHILLON, AND
DEEPAK MEHTA'S ANSWER TO
PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED
COMPLAINT; DEMAND FOR
JURY TRIAL**

Courtroom: 1
Judge: The Honorable Jesus G.
Bernal
Trial Date: none set
Action Filed: 4/30/2018

1 Defendants JOHN PARSONS, DONALD B. THORNTON, BONIFACIO C.
2 ESPERANZA, JOHN CULTON, DAVID DUNN, NICHOLAS
3 AGUILERA, JOSEPH BICK, RAY ANDREASEN, NABIL ATHANASSIOUS,
4 ELI RICHMAN, BALRAJ DHILLON, and DEEPAK MEHTA (collectively,
5 “Defendants”), in response to Plaintiff’s First Amended Complaint (Doc. #35),
6 filed on September 14, 2018, admit, deny, and aver as follows:

7 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

8 1. In response to paragraphs 1 and 2 of Plaintiff’s First Amended
9 Complaint, Defendants admit there are federal questions, that some alleged actions
10 or inactions occurred within the Central District, and that some Defendants are
11 residents of California. Except as admitted herein, defendants deny any remaining
12 allegations for lack of information and belief.

13 **PARTIES**

14 2. In response to paragraph 1 of Plaintiff’s First Amended Complaint,
15 Defendants admit that Plaintiff is an adult, who was in the custody of the CDCR at
16 various times between 1997 to 2016. Except as admitted herein, defendants deny
17 any remaining allegations for lack of information and belief.

18 3. In response to paragraphs 4 to 15 of Plaintiff’s First Amended Complaint,
19 Defendants admit that the individually named Defendants were employed or
20 otherwise agents of CDCR in the alleged time frames. Defendants deny that any
21 medical care, attention, or treatment provided by said Defendants violated any
22 constitutional right of Plaintiff. Defendants deny that any alleged policy, custom,
23 or practice violated any constitutional right of Plaintiff. Except as admitted or
24 denied herein, Defendants deny any remaining allegations for lack of information
25 and belief.

26 4. In response to paragraph 16 - 18 of Plaintiff’s First Amended Complaint,
27 Defendants admit that the County of San Bernardino is a municipal entity, and that
28 the Sheriff’s Department is one agency/subdivision of the County. As to the

1 remaining allegations against these Defendants, answering Defendants lack
2 sufficient information to admit or deny allegations, and therefore deny the
3 allegations on that basis.

4 5. In response to paragraph 19 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
5 Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny allegations regarding DOE
6 defendants, and therefore deny the allegations on that basis.

7 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

8 6. In response to paragraph 20 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
9 Defendants deny they were the agents or co-conspirators of any other Defendant.

10 7. In response to paragraphs 21 to 24 of Plaintiff's First Amended
11 Complaint, Defendants deny they acted in concert with anyone to act unlawfully,
12 deny they failed to implement necessary policies or training, deny they ratified any
13 unlawful conduct, and deny they promulgated any policies, procedures, or practices
14 that encouraged unlawful actions. Defendants deny they are jointly and severally
15 liable. Defendants deny they acted maliciously, recklessly, or with reckless
16 disregard to Plaintiff's health. Defendants deny any remaining allegations herein
17 for lack of information and belief.

18 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS**

19 8. In response to paragraph 25 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
20 Defendants deny that Plaintiff was wrongfully convicted of murdering his wife.
21 Defendants assert that Plaintiff is guilty of the murder but that his conviction was
22 overturned on a technicality. Defendants admit that Plaintiff was incarcerated after
23 his conviction in 1997, and that his conviction was reversed in May 2016, and that
24 Plaintiff was released from custody in June 2016. Except as admitted herein,
25 Defendants deny any remaining allegations herein for lack of information and
26 belief.

27 9. In response to paragraph 26 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
28 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, and the named medical

1 personnel were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
2 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
3 regarding medical care and on that basis deny the allegations. Defendants deny that
4 any medical care or supervision of medical care violated the constitutional rights of
5 Plaintiff.

6 10. In response to paragraph 27 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
7 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, and the named medical
8 personnel were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
9 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
10 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
11 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
12 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff.

13 11. In response to paragraph 28 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
14 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, and the named medical
15 personnel were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
16 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
17 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
18 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
19 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff.

20 12. In response to paragraph 29 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
21 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, and the named medical
22 personnel were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
23 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
24 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
25 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
26 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff.

27 13. In response to paragraph 30 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
28 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR. At present, Defendants

1 lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations regarding Plaintiff's
2 symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the allegations.
3 Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care violated the
4 constitutional rights of Plaintiff. Plaintiff's allegations suggesting required medical
5 protocols are incomplete and the subject of expert opinion, and on that basis are
6 denied by Defendants.

7 14. In response to paragraph 31 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
8 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR. At present, Defendants
9 lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations regarding Plaintiff's
10 symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the allegations.
11 Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care violated the
12 constitutional rights of Plaintiff. Plaintiff's allegations regarding his general health,
13 life expectancy, and hypothetical response to hypothetical treatments and medical
14 protocols are incomplete and the subject of expert opinion, and on that basis are
15 denied by Defendants.

16 15. In response to paragraph 32 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
17 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, and the named medical
18 personnel were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
19 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
20 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
21 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
22 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff.

23 16. In response to paragraph 33 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
24 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, and the named medical
25 personnel were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
26 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
27 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
28

1 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
2 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff.

3 17. In response to paragraph 34 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
4 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR. At present, Defendants
5 lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations regarding the scope of
6 Plaintiff's medical record review by any (unidentified) CDCR personnel.
7 Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care violated the
8 constitutional rights of Plaintiff.

9 18. In response to paragraph 35 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
10 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, and the named medical
11 personnel were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
12 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
13 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
14 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
15 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff.

16 19. In response to paragraph 36 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
17 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, and the named medical
18 personnel were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
19 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
20 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
21 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
22 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff. Plaintiff's allegations regarding his
23 general health, medical condition, and hypothetical response to hypothetical
24 treatments and medical protocols are incomplete and the subject of expert opinion,
25 and on that basis are denied by Defendants.

26 20. In response to paragraph 37 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
27 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, and the named medical
28 personnel were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At

1 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
2 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
3 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
4 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff.

5 21. In response to paragraph 38 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
6 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, and the named medical
7 personnel were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
8 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
9 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
10 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
11 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff.

12 22. In response to paragraph 39 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
13 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, and the named medical
14 personnel were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
15 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
16 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
17 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
18 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff.

19 23. In response to paragraph 40 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
20 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, and the named medical
21 personnel were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
22 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
23 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
24 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
25 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff. Plaintiff's allegations regarding his
26 general health, medical condition, and hypothetical response to hypothetical
27 treatments and medical protocols are incomplete and the subject of expert opinion,
28 and on that basis are denied by Defendants.

1 24. In response to paragraph 41 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
2 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, and the named medical
3 personnel were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
4 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
5 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
6 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
7 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff. Plaintiff's allegations regarding his
8 general health, medical condition, and hypothetical response to hypothetical
9 treatments and medical protocols are incomplete and the subject of expert opinion,
10 and on that basis are denied by Defendants.

11 25. In response to paragraph 42 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
12 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, and the named medical
13 personnel were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
14 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
15 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
16 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
17 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff.

18 26. In response to paragraph 43 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
19 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, and the named medical
20 personnel were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
21 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
22 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
23 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
24 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff.

25 27. In response to paragraph 44 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
26 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, for portions of the 2008-
27 2016 period, and the named medical personnel were employed or contracted by
28 CDCR to provide medical services. At present, Defendants lack sufficient

1 information to admit or deny the allegations regarding Plaintiff's symptoms,
2 testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the allegations. Defendants deny
3 that any medical care or supervision of medical care violated the constitutional
4 rights of Plaintiff.

5 28. In response to paragraph 45 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
6 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, for portions of the 2008-
7 2010 period, and in the custody of San Bernardino County for other portions of the
8 2008-2013 period.

9 29. In response to paragraph 46 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
10 these allegations concern County defendants, and therefore are not addressed by the
11 CDCR defendants due to lack of information and belief.

12 30. In response to paragraph 47 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
13 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, for portions of the 2007-
14 2008 period, and the named medical personnel were employed or contracted by
15 CDCR to provide medical services. At present, Defendants lack sufficient
16 information to admit or deny the allegations regarding Plaintiff's symptoms,
17 testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the allegations. Defendants deny
18 that any medical care or supervision of medical care violated the constitutional
19 rights of Plaintiff.

20 31. In response to paragraph 48 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
21 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, for portions of the 2008-
22 2012 period, and the named medical personnel were employed or contracted by
23 CDCR to provide medical services. At present, Defendants lack sufficient
24 information to admit or deny the allegations regarding Plaintiff's symptoms,
25 testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the allegations. Defendants deny
26 that any medical care or supervision of medical care violated the constitutional
27 rights of Plaintiff. Plaintiff's allegations regarding his general health, medical
28 condition, and hypothetical response to hypothetical treatments and medical

1 protocols are incomplete and the subject of expert opinion, and on that basis are
2 denied by Defendants.

3 32. In response to paragraph 49 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
4 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, for some portion of the
5 "several years" period alleged, and the named medical personnel were employed or
6 contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At present, Defendants lack
7 sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations regarding Plaintiff's
8 symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the allegations.
9 Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care violated the
10 constitutional rights of Plaintiff. Plaintiff's allegations regarding his general health,
11 medical condition, and hypothetical response to hypothetical treatments and
12 medical protocols are incomplete and the subject of expert opinion, and on that
13 basis are denied by Defendants.

14 33. In response to paragraph 50 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
15 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, for some portion of the
16 period alleged, and the named medical personnel were employed or contracted by
17 CDCR to provide medical services. At present, Defendants lack sufficient
18 information to admit or deny the allegations regarding Plaintiff's symptoms,
19 testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the allegations. Defendants deny
20 that any medical care or supervision of medical care violated the constitutional
21 rights of Plaintiff. Plaintiff's allegations regarding his general health, medical
22 condition, and hypothetical response to hypothetical treatments and medical
23 protocols are incomplete and the subject of expert opinion, and on that basis are
24 denied by Defendants.

25 34. In response to paragraph 51 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
26 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, for some portion of the
27 period alleged, and the named medical personnel (excepting named County
28 personnel) were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At

1 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
2 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
3 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
4 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff. Plaintiff's allegations regarding his
5 general health, medical condition, and hypothetical response to hypothetical
6 treatments and medical protocols are incomplete and the subject of expert opinion,
7 and on that basis are denied by Defendants.

8 35. In response to paragraph 52 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
9 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, for some portion of the
10 period alleged, and the named medical personnel (excepting named County
11 personnel) were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
12 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
13 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
14 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
15 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff. Plaintiff's allegations regarding his
16 general health, medical condition, and hypothetical response to hypothetical
17 treatments and medical protocols are incomplete and the subject of expert opinion,
18 and on that basis are denied by Defendants.

19 36. In response to paragraph 53 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
20 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, for some portion of the
21 period alleged, and the named medical personnel (excepting named County
22 personnel) were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
23 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
24 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
25 allegations. At present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the
26 allegations regarding any communications to or from Plaintiff's attorneys to or
27 from CDCR or County personnel, and on that basis deny the allegations.
28 Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care violated the

1 constitutional rights of Plaintiff. Plaintiff's allegations regarding his general health,
2 medical condition, and hypothetical response to hypothetical treatments and
3 medical protocols are incomplete and the subject of expert opinion, and on that
4 basis are denied by Defendants.

5 37. In response to paragraph 54 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
6 these allegations concern County defendants, and therefore are not addressed by the
7 CDCR defendants due to lack of information and belief.

8 38. In response to paragraph 55 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
9 Defendants admit Plaintiff was in the custody of CDCR, for some portion of the
10 period alleged, and the named medical personnel (excepting named County
11 personnel) were employed or contracted by CDCR to provide medical services. At
12 present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
13 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
14 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
15 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff, and deny that there was any custom
16 and practice that violated the constitutional rights of inmate patients.

17 39. In response to paragraph 56 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
18 these allegations concern County defendants, and therefore are not addressed by the
19 CDCR defendants due to lack of information and belief.

20 40. In response to paragraph 57 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
21 these allegations appear to concern events during a period Plaintiff was in the
22 custody of County defendants, and the CDCR defendants lack sufficient
23 information to admit or deny the allegations and on that basis deny the allegations.
24 At present, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations
25 regarding Plaintiff's symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
26 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
27 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff. Plaintiff's allegations regarding his
28 general health, medical condition, and hypothetical response to hypothetical

1 treatments and medical protocols are incomplete and the subject of expert opinion,
2 and on that basis are denied by Defendants.

3 41. In response to paragraph 58 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
4 Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations regarding
5 Plaintiff's May 3, 2016 medical consultation or any symptoms, testing, and medical
6 care and on that basis deny the allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care
7 or supervision of medical care violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff, and
8 deny that there was any custom and practice that violated the constitutional rights of
9 inmate patients. Plaintiff's allegations regarding his general health, medical
10 condition, and hypothetical response to hypothetical treatments and medical
11 protocols are incomplete and the subject of expert opinion, and on that basis are
12 denied by Defendants.

13 42. In response to paragraph 59 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
14 Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations regarding
15 Plaintiff's current symptoms, testing, and medical care and on that basis deny the
16 allegations. Defendants deny that any medical care or supervision of medical care
17 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiff, and deny that there was any custom
18 and practice that violated the constitutional rights of inmate patients. Plaintiff's
19 allegations regarding his general health, medical condition, and hypothetical
20 response to hypothetical treatments and medical protocols are incomplete and the
21 subject of expert opinion, and on that basis are denied by Defendants.

22 **PARTICIPATION, STATE OF MIND, AND DAMAGES**

23 43. In response to paragraphs 60 to 64 of Plaintiff's First Amended
24 Complaint, Defendants deny they acted illegally, knew of violations and failed to
25 prevent them, or ratified any violations. Defendants deny they are liable for the
26 failures or omissions of any other defendants. Defendants deny they acted
27 individually or in concert to violate Plaintiff's rights. Defendants deny they acted
28

1 intentionally or with deliberate indifference to violate Plaintiff's rights. Defendants
2 deny any remaining allegations herein for lack of information and belief.

3 44. In response to paragraphs 65 to 68 of Plaintiff's First Amended
4 Complaint, Defendants deny they provided Plaintiff with deficient, inadequate, or
5 untimely medical care. Defendants deny they were deliberately indifferent to
6 Plaintiff's medical care. Defendants deny their actions or inactions injured
7 Plaintiff. Defendants deny they acted willfully, maliciously, in bad faith, or with
8 deliberate indifference. Defendants deny any remaining allegations herein for lack
9 of information and belief.

10 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION: 42 USC 1983**

11 45. In response to paragraph 69 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
12 Defendants re-allege and incorporate their responses to paragraphs 1 to 68 above.

13 46. In response to paragraphs 70-72 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint,
14 Defendants deny they denied Plaintiff of any rights, privileges, or immunities.
15 Defendants deny that the Fifth or Fourteenth Amendments apply to the provision of
16 medical care to a prisoner. Defendants deny they acted with deliberate indifference
17 to Plaintiff's medical needs. Defendants deny that they delayed or denied Plaintiff
18 access to proper medical care. Defendants deny any remaining allegations herein
19 for lack of information and belief.

20 47. In response to paragraphs 73 to 77 of Plaintiff's First Amended
21 Complaint, Defendants deny they conspired or otherwise acted to deprive Plaintiff
22 of any constitutional rights. Defendants deny they ratified or acquiesced in any
23 violations. Defendants deny they knowingly or in bad faith acted to violate
24 Plaintiff's rights or the law. Defendants deny Plaintiff was injured as a result of
25 their actions or inactions, and deny that they acted willfully, maliciously, or in
26 reckless disregard of Plaintiff's rights. Defendants deny Plaintiff is entitled to any
27 damages as a result of their actions or inactions. Defendants deny any remaining
28 allegations for lack of information and belief.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION: MONELL

48. In response to paragraphs 78-83 of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint, these allegations are solely against County defendants, and do not reference CDCR Defendants, and therefore are not addressed by the CDCR defendants.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

49. In response to Plaintiff's prayer for relief in his First Amended Complaint, Defendants deny that Plaintiff is entitled to judgment, damages, costs, or attorneys' fees.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

AS SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES, Defendants allege as follows:

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

50. The FAC fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. The FAC also fails to state a claim for relief against Defendants.

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

51. Defendants deny that Plaintiff has been deprived of any rights, privileges, or immunities guaranteed by the laws of the United States or by the laws of the State of California.

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

52. At all relevant times, Defendants acted within the scope of discretion, with due care, and good faith fulfillment of responsibilities pursuant to applicable statutes, rules and regulations, within the bounds of reason under the circumstances, and with the good faith belief that their actions comported with all applicable laws. Defendants therefore assert their qualified immunity from liability.

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

53. Plaintiff has suffered no actual injury due to Defendants' conduct.

FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

54. Defendants deny that they violated Plaintiff's Fifth, Eighth, Fourteenth

1 Amendment rights, or any other state, federal, constitutional, or other rights.

2 **SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

3 55. Plaintiff's own conduct estops him from claiming the damages alleged
4 in the FAC. Plaintiff also failed to mitigate his damages.

5 **SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

6 56. At all relevant times, each Defendant acted independently and not in
7 association or concert with or as agent or servant of any other Defendant, including
8 any sued herein under fictitious names, or of the employees or agents of other
9 Defendants.

10 **EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

11 57. Plaintiff's claims are barred by all applicable statutes of limitations.

12 **NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

13 58. Defendants are immune to suit for damages in their official capacities
14 pursuant to the Eleventh Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

15 **TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

16 59. Plaintiff is not entitled to punitive damages because Defendants did
17 not act with malicious intent to deprive Plaintiff of any constitutional right or to
18 cause any injury.

19 **ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

20 60. Because the FAC is couched in conclusory terms, Defendants cannot
21 fully anticipate all affirmative defenses that may be applicable to this action.
22 Accordingly, the right to assert additional affirmative defenses, if and to the extent
23 that such affirmative defenses are applicable, is hereby reserved.

24 **DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL**

25 Defendants hereby demand a trial before a jury on all issues presented by
26 Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint triable to a jury.

27 WHEREFORE, Defendants pray that:

28 1. Judgment be rendered in favor of Defendants and against Plaintiff;

1 2. Plaintiff take nothing by his First Amended Complaint;
2 3. Defendants be awarded costs of suit incurred herein; and
3 4. Defendants be awarded such other and further relief as the Court may
4 deem necessary and proper.

5
6 Dated: January 11, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

7 XAVIER BECERRA
8 Attorney General of California
9 RICHARD F. WOLFE
10 Supervising Deputy Attorney General

11 /s/ WILLIAM R. PRICE

12 WILLIAM R. PRICE
13 Deputy Attorney General
14 *Attorneys for Defendants John*
Parsons, Donald B. Thornton,
Bonifacio C. Esperanza, John Culton,
David Dunn, Nicholas Aguilera,
Joseph Bick, Ray Andreasen, Nabil
Athanassious, Eli Richman, Balraj
Dhillon, and Deepak Mehta

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Case Name: Richards v. Pickett

Case No. 5:18-cv-00912-JGB-SHK

I hereby certify that on **January 11, 2019**, I electronically filed the following documents with the Clerk of the Court by using the CM/ECF system:

**DEFENDANTS JOHN PARSONS, DONALD B. THORNTON,
BONIFACIO C. ESPERANZA, JOHN CULTON, DAVID DUNN,
NICHOLAS AGUILERA, JOSEPH BICK, RAY ANDREASEN, NABIL
ATHANASSIOUS, ELI RICHMAN, BALRAJ DHILLON, AND DEEPAK
MEHTA'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED
COMPLAINT; DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

I certify that **all** participants in the case are registered CM/ECF users and that service will be accomplished by the CM/ECF system.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on **January 11, 2019**, at San Diego, California.

E. Empero

Declarant

E. Empero
Signature

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